



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

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Crop and Weather Information for the Month of February 2006

Western

Grays Harbor: Unseasonably cold, windy and wet weather throughout the month severely limited agricultural activities. Livestock producers had to feed supplemental hay when an arctic blast hit the county during mid-month. Early in the month heavy rainfall resulted in moderate flooding along the Chehalis, Satsop and Wishkah rivers. Fortunately, damage was limited to flood debris removal. Two major windstorms occurred during the month resulting in some structural damage to farm buildings. Christmas tree growers took advantage of a few nice days at the end of the month to plant harvested fields.

Thurston: Heavy rainfall resulted in moderate flooding along the Chehalis, Black and Nisqually Rivers during the first days of the month. Due to saturated soil conditions, the flood waters were slow to recede with many fields sporting small lakes for an additional week. Fortunately damage was limited to the cleanup of debris in fields and fences. The flood event was followed by several windstorms which again resulted in minor damage. Finally, an arctic blast brought unseasonably cold temperatures to the county during the middle of the month. This erratic weather was not conducive to much agricultural activity other than feeding livestock and cleaning up storm debris. The cold temperatures delayed the digging of conifer seedlings at nurseries. Christmas tree growers took advantage of good days between storm events to plant trees and continued removing debris from harvested fields.

Thurston (2nd Report): Livestock was doing well. Lots of rain made for some mud in the feedlot, but they have a loafing shed and a wood lot where they spend time when they're not eating haylage at the round bale feeders.

Whatcom: January was warmer than normal and extremely wet with rain. For the first time since 1931, the month of January did not have any freezing temperatures in Lynden. This has stimulated some berry plants into thinking spring is here. A hard frost could damage blueberry plants, and younger raspberry plants in particular. The standing water may cause some damage to grass fields.

Central

Grant: Moisture conditions in the county were most favorable. Extreme low temperatures and high winds which occurred February 16 through February 20 had caused some damage to winter wheat and the fall planted vegetable seed crops. Early fieldwork activities have begun in the southern portion of the county.

Kittitas: February was wet and dry, cold and warm, still and windy. Additional moisture was both rain and snow up high has been beneficial. The cold snap in Kittitas County was not terribly damaging to crops or livestock. Weather was decent for calving, which has begun in earnest. Timothy hay fields showed signs underground that growth has begun, with top growth awaiting the onset of warmer temperatures.

Eastern

Pend Oreille: The temperatures were for the highs 40 degrees and the lows were 20 degrees with two days of rain and snow mixed. Fields were too muddy to graze or work.

Stevens: Mild temperatures and abundant precipitation have led to saturated ground. The first calf was born February 1.

Stevens (2nd Report): Rain was reported at 5.24 inches at Chewelah. Temperatures were warmer than normal.

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